

CATEGORICAL ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The invention is a device for generating a display of an electronic program guide
on a screen. Invention is comprised of a receiver which includes a tuner for receiving an
input stream of television content and electronic program guide data. The receiver
separates the electronic program guide data from the input stream. The invention also
comprises a memory coupled to the receiver for storing the electronic program guide data
that has been separated from the input stream. Additionally, a display means is included
10 for generating a display which combines a set of electronic program guide data. The
program guide data includes a plurality of program titles, and a plurality of organizational
categories. Each program title belongs to at least one of the organizational categories.
The program titles are arranged in the display so that the program titles which belong to
the same organizational categories are spatially adjacent and program titles which are not
15 members of the same organizational categories are spatially separated. The
organizational categories provide a first-level organization which defines overall content
of the display. It also defines a second-level organization which defines the spatial
separation of the program titles. The organizational categories are time, channel, topic
and actor based, and are used at any organizational level.